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(11) **EP 1 052 844 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
05.06.2002 Bulletin 2002/23

(51) Int Cl.7: **H04N 1/32, H04N 1/23,  
H04N 1/00**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
15.11.2000 Bulletin 2000/46

(21) Application number: **00304018.5**

(22) Date of filing: **12.05.2000**

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU  
MC NL PT SE**  
Designated Extension States:  
**AL LT LV MK RO SI**

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(30) Priority: **12.05.1999 JP 13165299**

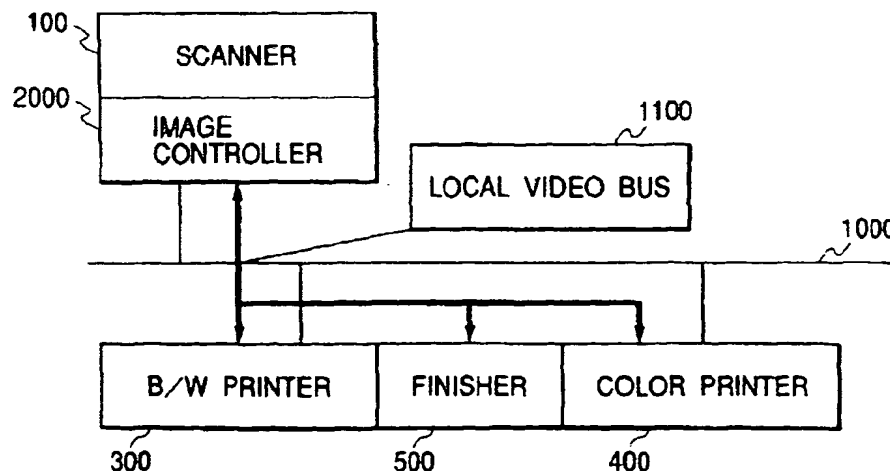
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(54) **Image formation system control method, image formation system, and storage medium**

(57) In case of outputting data mixedly including plural different-type images, productivity and cost performance are improved without an operator's complicated assistive operation. To do so, a color printer, a black and white printer and a finisher are electrically connected with others through a data communication path such that these devices can perform data communication with others, and also these devices are mechanically connected with others such that the sheets discharged from the respective printers can be carried to a sheet carrying path of the finisher without any operator's man-

ual working. Further, it is controlled that, in the series of images, pages corresponding to the color images are subjected to image formation by the color printer and pages corresponding to the black and white images are subjected to image formation by the black and white printer, and in the finisher it is selectively set the image formation operation in the color printer and the image formation operation in the black and white printer to be on standby so as to compile the sheets from these printers as one sheet sheaf with the continuous page order maintained.

**FIG. 1**



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 00 30 4018

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>BERLIN</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>10 April 2002</b>	Examiner <b>Waern, G</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		I : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date () : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons  Δ : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 (3.82) (P04C01)

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EP 00 30 4018

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